

# Prescriptives

School of Pharmacy News

## First Endowed Chair in Mechanistic Toxicology Installed

By: Beth Krane  
Reprinted from the UConn Advance



Urs Boelsterli, professor of pharmaceutical sciences and toxicology, was installed as the first Boehringer Ingelheim Endowed Chair in Mechanistic Toxicology on Oct. 25. The endowed chair, established through a \$1.25 million gift to the School of Pharmacy from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. in 2006, is the first such chair in the nation.

Mechanistic toxicology is the study of the processes and mechanisms underlying the toxicity of chemicals. It explains how foreign compounds such as drugs, environmental pollutants, and industrial chemicals exert their potentially damaging effects on cells and tissues. The field is widely regarded as the next frontier for drug development and medical breakthroughs. It has the potential to greatly reduce the number of drugs that fail to meet FDA safety

standards during the extensive clinical trial period, and to limit the number of drugs launched but later recalled because of rare but unpredictable adverse effects.

Boelsterli was selected after an extensive international search. The Swiss-born researcher comes to UConn from the National University of Singapore, where he directed the toxicology program. He brings more than 25 years of combined academic and industry experience to his new post, including a previous position as head of molecular toxicology for Switzerland-based Roche Pharma.

Boelsterli has published more than 80 peer-reviewed original articles and reviews, and is the author of a best-selling textbook on mechanistic toxicology. He also consults for a number of pharmaceutical companies, and founded a consulting company focusing on drug-induced liver injury. More than 600 medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration can inflict liver injury. In some cases, the injury is severe enough to require a transplant, and may even lead to death. Though extremely rare, such reactions are unpredictable and may prompt drug withdrawals from the market and halt the development of promising future drugs, he says.

Boelsterli specializes in understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms that cause this type of idiosyncratic drug-induced liver injury.

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## A Message from the Dean

Dear Friends:

We have been blessed for the last 2 ½ years to be housed in a wonderful, state-of-the-art teaching and research facility. As truly special as the building is, however, what makes us an exceptional school of pharmacy is not the building, but those who spend their days (and sometimes their nights) in it. The students, faculty, and staff are the UConn School of Pharmacy; our building simply enhances what they learn and the work they do.

In each of these columns, I highlight some of the activities, awards, and recognitions of the folks who comprise the School of Pharmacy "family." As you read on, please remember that these individuals represent but a sample of the many accomplishments of the special people who make up our community

Last academic year, the university established an academic requirement that all students enroll in a course, within their major, of which writing is a major component. This new requirement is especially timely in a major like pharmacy that is known for having students with strong oral communications skills, but who are not always the best writers. These courses must be taught with no more than 19 students to ensure that each student receives individualized feedback about their writing. The School of Pharmacy established a course, Current Topics in Pharmacy, which allows each instructor to develop a course based on their area of expertise.

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# Faculty News Briefs

The Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation and the Association for Frontotemporal Dementia have awarded **Dr. Ben Bahr** a grant for drug discovery research to accelerate the development on novel therapies for frontotemporal dementia.

**Dr. Robin Bogner** received the AAiPS Distinguished Scientist Award for 2007. This award is given to exceptional individuals who have made significant contribution to the Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technology as well as other criteria set forth by the Executive Committee and Awards Committee.

The paper that **Dr. Diane Burgess** co-authored with Siddhesh D. Patil and David G. Rhodes, "DNA-based Therapeutics and DNA Delivery Systems: A Comprehensive Review," was selected for the 2007 AAPS Journal Manuscript Award, sponsored by Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc.

**Dr. Megan Ehret** has become a Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist.

**Dr. Jennifer Lee** has become a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist.

**Dr. Jill Fitzgerald** has joined the School of Pharmacy as its director of

pharmacy professional development. The former Office of Continuing Education has expanded its role to include career development and counseling. The restructuring follows the retirement of **Dr. Henry A. Palmer**, emeritus professor, as the School of Pharmacy's director of continuing education.

**Dr. José Manautou** has been accepted as a fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences. This honor represents a significant milestone in the development of a career in toxicology and is earned following a thorough peer review of scientific credentials.

**Dr. Marie Smith** gave the plenary address at a Department of Defense invitational conference "Developing an Interdisciplinary Institute for Emerging Technologies" in December 2007. Her talk focused on leveraging technology in pharmacy practice. ■

## We Get Phan Mail

In a letter responding to the article "Here We Grow Again" in the Fall/Summer 2006 issue of "Prescriptives," University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy alumnus Dr. Robert J. Krueger explains that he took a personal interest in the plans for the relocation and renovation of the School of Pharmacy's Medicinal Plant Garden.



Dr. Krueger's interest in pharmacognosy was fostered by encouragement he received from Dean Hewitt, Dean Schwarting, and from the years he spent working in Storrs at Dr. Kelleher's lab. After the completion of his B.S. Pharmacy degree in 1971, Dr. Krueger further pursued his education, attending graduate school at the University of Iowa. There, he worked with Dr. David Carew and another University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy graduate, Dr. John Rosazza. He then continued on to Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan, where he oversees the University's K.K. Kazoervoskis Medicinal Plant Garden and Greenhouse, and its Native American Medicinal Plant Garden.

As a pharmacy alum, Dr. Krueger fondly recalls the quiet times he spent weeding the medicinal garden during his years at Storrs. He expresses his gratitude to Drs. Kelleher, Schwarting, and Hewitt, for encouraging his love for pharmacy and helping him to begin a rich and rewarding career.

As always, it is a pleasure to hear from a graduate of the School of Pharmacy. With a new location and plans for rejuvenation, it can be expected that many more faculty, staff and students will be able to enjoy the medicinal garden's serenity and beauty in years to come, just as Dr. Krueger did during his years at the University of Connecticut. ■

### Thirsty?

Order a School of Pharmacy Travel Mug from Pharmacy Student Government.



\$12.50 includes S&H

Make checks payable to Pharmacy Student Government and send to PSG, University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, 69 North Eagleville Road, Unit 3092, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3092



University of Connecticut

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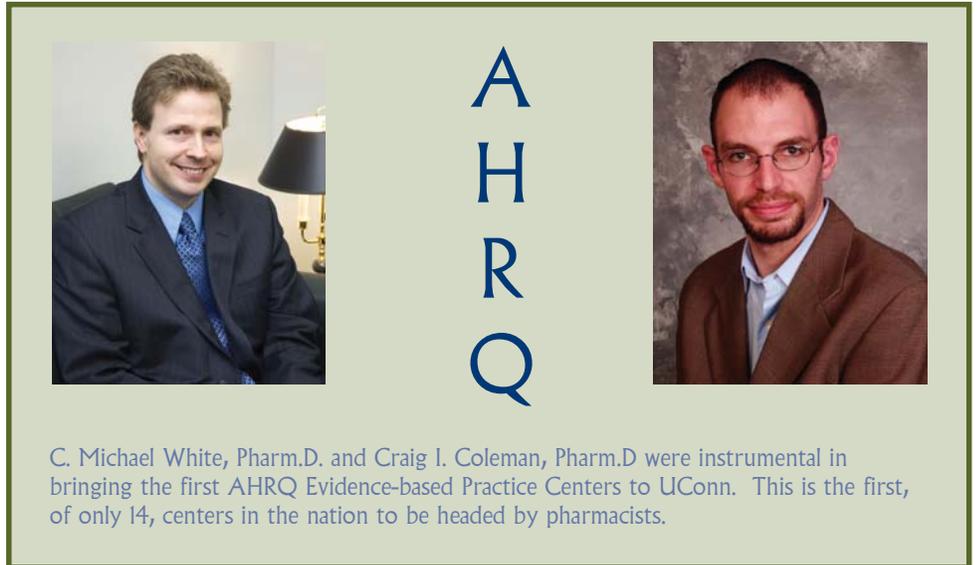
# Pharmacy school to lead new center

By: Beth Krane - Reprinted from the UConn Advance

A federal center to be established at the University may help determine which treatments your doctor recommends and which prescription drugs your health plan covers. The five-year center also has the potential to immerse UConn faculty, graduate students, honors students, and research fellows in up to one million dollars of federally-funded work each year.

The UConn center, to be led by the School of Pharmacy in collaboration with the School of Business and Hartford Hospital, is one of 14 Evidence-based Practice Centers nationwide. Other institutions that run such centers include Duke, Johns Hopkins, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and Tufts University-New England Medical Center. The centers are charged by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with conducting comprehensive, systematic reviews of research on health topics of vital importance to the U.S. healthcare system, and advising federal and state policymakers, professional organizations, and insurance companies on the highest quality, most effective, and most cost-effective healthcare treatments and delivery options.

The topics the new UConn center will review include common medications, exorbitant treatments, and those particularly significant for Medicare and Medicaid populations. The UConn center is the first to be led by pharmacists, notes its director, C. Michael White, an associate professor of pharmacy practice and expert on cardiac medicine. It will also forge the first partnership between UConn's schools of Pharmacy and Business, he says. "Pharmacists are healthcare's medication experts and the profession possesses unique insights into patient care that often are under-represented among leaders formulating the nation's healthcare policies," White says. "Having pharmacists, physicians, and healthcare policy experts all working together will benefit everyone. You need to have practitioners from all healthcare disciplines involved in deciding which questions you ask to provide the best, most useful answers."



Dr. Jeffrey Kluger of Hartford Hospital will be the center's associate director and Dr. Craig Coleman, an assistant professor of pharmacy practice, will be the center's project manager. John Vernon, an assistant professor of finance, who recently completed an appointment as senior economic policy advisor to the Office of the Commissioner at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, will be the new center's health policy chief.

White, Kluger, and Coleman have been working together for almost a decade. Their collaboration has resulted in close to 200 peer-reviewed publications, including lead articles in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*. In recent years, the research team has used a review technique known as meta-analysis to study statins, the most commonly prescribed class of medications in the United States, and the popular herbal supplement Echinacea.

Those studies, which are representative of the type of work the researchers will conduct under the new center, made international headlines largely because they pooled the totality of existing research to shed light on controversial medical topics in ways individual studies had failed to do. "There can be so much conflicting research out there," says Coleman, an expert in a field known as pharmacoconomics and outcomes

research. "Often, practicing physicians and pharmacists aren't aware of all of the available research, or the latest study is the one they remember best. The key is that we'll be looking at all of the evidence as a whole."

Vernon will bolster Coleman's economics expertise and help the center translate its clinical findings into policy recommendations. "For instance, say you find out that Drug A is better than Drug B, but Drug A is more expensive and the two drugs are not dramatically different in terms of clinical results, where do you go from there?" Coleman says. "We'll be weighing all the repercussions to make the best recommendations possible."

Vernon calls the partnership between the two schools "a very natural alliance," adding that "there are an abundance of important policy-related research questions that can be answered far more effectively from a cross-disciplinary perspective." UConn members of the new center's leadership team anticipate that the chance to help shape federal healthcare policy will help them better communicate to their students the real-world applications of what they learn in the classroom. The center will also draw on the strengths of other faculty members in Storrs and at the UConn Health Center, by inviting them to serve as content experts on specific projects.

## BI Chair Endowed

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He is working to develop tests to help determine which patients are at highest risk for such adverse drug reactions and to identify chemical compounds that could protect mitochondria – regarded as key mediators of cell death – against these dangerous effects.

“I was drawn to UConn by the excellent reputation of its toxicology program both nationally and abroad, and by the unique research and teaching opportunities presented by the creation of the first endowed chair in my field,” Boelsterli says. “Ultimately, our research could open new avenues to potential therapeutic interventions and aid in the design of safer drugs,” he adds, “but that kind of progress will only be possible through close collaboration with other national and international research institutions and the pharmaceutical industry. Those are precisely the kinds of collaborations the Boehringer Ingelheim Chair will facilitate.”

In addition to fostering multidisciplinary research collaborations at UConn and beyond, Boelsterli will develop a course in mechanistic toxicology, and will encourage faculty and students to present their research findings nationally and internationally. “Attracting a researcher of Urs Boelsterli’s caliber to our endowed chair in mechanistic toxicology – the first of its kind nationwide – raises our profile nationally and internationally and cements

our standing among this country’s elite schools of pharmacy,” says Robert McCarthy, dean of pharmacy.

Dr. Peter Farina, senior vice president of development at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc., says the company “has a long-standing commitment to academic excellence. It is important for us to support universities, so they in turn can develop highly trained and academically well prepared scientists. “We also seek to support universities that pursue cutting edge science and provide scientists who will serve mankind through discovery and development of breakthrough medicines. We are convinced that UConn is the right place to accomplish this, and are pleased with the University’s selection of Urs Boelsterli as the first professor to fill the Boehringer Ingelheim Endowed Chair in Mechanistic Toxicology.”

The company’s gift to the School of Pharmacy is the third significant donation the school has received from a major Connecticut-based pharmaceutical company in the past three years. Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. previously donated \$250,000 to name a laboratory in the new Pharmacy/Biology Building that specializes in dosage forms. And in 2004, Pfizer Global Research and Development, a division of Pfizer Inc., created a distinguished endowed chair in pharmaceutical technology. ■

## Student News Briefs

**Jennifer Scholle** and **Chinenye Anyanwu**, received the University Diversity Award for graduate students for their work with the Student National Pharmaceutical Association [SNPhA.] Jennifer and Chinenye are extraordinary representatives of our school’s aspiration to care, to give and to make a difference.

P-4 students, **Sarah Casey** and **Anna Rocki**, won the 2007 UConn School of Pharmacy Clinical Skills Competition. Anna and Sarah represented UConn and competed against other student teams from schools of pharmacy across the country at the national Clinical Skills Competition during the ASHP Midyear

Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas, NV. School of Pharmacy Urban Health Scholar Ana Martinez, along with the School of Medicine student Robin Deutsch, and School of Nursing student Kara O’Brien presented a poster about their experience this past summer with the Institute for Community Research at the Connecticut Public Health Association Conference.

The U.S. Pharmacopeia announced the six awardees of its 2007–2008 fellowship program, one of whom was **Kristyn Greco** from the University of Connecticut for her research on the “establishment of best practices in dissolution testing for drug salts that

## Dean’s Message

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Recently, two of our pharmacy practice faculty, Drs. Effie Kuti and Megan Ehret, were highlighted in the university’s Writing Center newsletter for their team effort in creating and teaching a Current Topics in Pharmacy section focused on drug-induced disease states. Rather than employ lecture-based exams and assign a long term paper, the faculty asked students to write 3-5 page papers that responded to drug-induced disease state questions, directing their response to both a patient and a physician. This approach allowed for much faster feedback to students, who then could incorporate their improved writing skills in future papers. Feedback received from students was quite positive, and the faculty are excited about implementing several refinements for next year.

Drs. Craig Coleman, Lauren Schlesselman, and Michael White recently published a paper in *Pharmacy Practice* entitled, “Journal publications by pharmacy practice faculty evaluated by institution and region of the United States (2001-2003).” We were not only pleased with the paper, but with the results that rank our pharmacy practice faculty 14<sup>th</sup> in total number of publications and first in publications per faculty member.

This year’s recipient of the 2008 AstraZeneca Traveling Lectureship Award is Dr. José Manautou. The award is presented through the Society of Toxicology to recognize excellence in research and service in toxicology and enables a lecture tour of Europe to promote collaboration between European and North American toxicologists. Dr. Manautou’s research in the fields of hepatotoxicity and drug transporters has gained international recognition for excellence. Dr. Manautou’s planned visits to Switzerland, Portugal, the Netherlands, Hungary, and England will expand his collaborative network and bring new perspectives to his research efforts.

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## AAPS Names New Associate Editor of Prestigious Pharmaceutical Journal



ARLINGTON, VA (February 20, 2008) - The American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) is proud to announce the appointment of Devendra Kalonia, Ph.D., to the position of Associate Editor for the scientific journal, AAPS PharmSciTech. Dr. Kalonia is an associate professor of pharmaceuticals in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Connecticut, where he has developed a leading research program in pharmaceutical biotechnology. He is a leader in the area of high concentration antibody solution rheology and formulation, and he has active research collaborations with major biotechnology companies. Dr. Kalonia is also

currently serving on the editorial advisory boards of the [Current Issues in Biotechnology Journal](#) and [The Open Biotechnology Journal](#). In 2000, Dr. Kalonia also served as the chair of the BIOTEC Section of AAPS.

[AAPS PharmSciTech](#) is directed towards pharmaceutical scientists interested in the research, development and evaluation of pharmaceutical dosage forms. Indexed by the National Library of Medicine, the journal received 368 manuscripts for review and published 121 articles in 2007. The manuscript submission and peer review process is completely web-based with system administration handled by AAPS' staff in Arlington, VA. In his new position, Dr. Kalonia will assist in overseeing the journal's manuscript review process. Dr. Kalonia is taking over this position from the incumbent, AAPS President-Elect Pat DeLuca, Ph.D. "I was delighted when Professor Kalonia decided to join [AAPS PharmSciTech](#) as an Associate Editor," Dr. DeLuca said. "Dr. Kalonia has distinguished himself as an authority in the pharmaceutical sciences and has achieved an international visibility on protein characterization by his mechanistic treatment of protein-protein interactions and aggregation, as well as those dealing with changes in protein structure in the solid state. He has made major contributions to the scientific literature." ■

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## A Generous Gift for an Exceptional Scientist

By: Christine Taylor

The School of Pharmacy has named Dr. José Manautou as the first Marlene L. Cohen and Jerome H. Fleisch Scholar. Marlene L. Cohen and Jerome H. Fleisch established the endowment fund with the intent of supporting the university by means of attracting, retaining, and rewarding faculty members. Existing full-time faculty members demonstrating research excellence are eligible to receive the three-year award. An outstanding researcher, Dr. Manautou will receive funding for academic and research expenses such as technician salaries, graduate assistantships, travel, books, conferences, and supplies.

Professor Manautou received a B.S. in pharmacy from the University of Puerto Rico and a Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology from Purdue University. His area of interest is in mechanisms of target organ toxicity, with a special emphasis on drug-induced liver injury. Specifically, Dr. Manautou has focused on the hepatotoxicity of the drug acetaminophen, commonly known as Tylenol. Dr. Manautou was recommended and chosen because of his exceptional research in an area of specialty that is very important to the School of Pharmacy. "Because of José's work, we have to be able to predict the toxic effects of drugs before they reach the market," explains Dean McCarthy.

On behalf of the School of Pharmacy, Dean McCarthy expresses his gratitude to the donors who made this the award possible. "The school really appreciates the gift," says the dean. "Private support is what helps us move towards our goal of becoming a premier school. Without support, we can't get where we need to go." ■

In November, the university held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Diversity Awards. We were proud that two of our students, Chinenye Anyanwu and Jennifer Scholle, were selected to receive the Diversity Leadership for Excellence Award. ChiChi and Jen were selected for their work in leading the school's SNPhA Chapter, which has also been recognized nationally for their outreach activities working with underserved populations.

This fall, at the Northeast Society of Toxicology Meeting, two of our students, Meeghan O'Connor and Sarah Barnes, won the first and second place poster awards, respectively. Meeghan's winning was a pleasant surprise since she is only a first semester graduate student. Her poster described work that she did as a summer intern at Pfizer. It is unusual for the top two awards to go to students from the same laboratory.

We were pleased to hold our first alumni reception in Washington, DC in January prior to the UConn-Georgetown men's basketball game. Our host, David Rosen, was kind enough to make his beautiful law offices, which sit on the banks of the Potomac River, available for the event. Over 40 alumni and guests, many from David's Class of 1978, enjoyed renewing acquaintances and meeting new friends. President Michael Hogan and his wife Virginia were special guests.

We typically hold alumni receptions in Florida at the home of Buddy and Brenda during the month of February, and in New Jersey at the home of Joe and Nancy Papa during the month of May. You can also meet with alumni at the APhA annual meeting, the Society of Toxicology annual meeting, and the ASHP mid-year clinical meeting. Check our website for upcoming events. Our alumni will next gather together on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Awards & Reunion Banquet at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell, CT. I hope to see you there! ■

## Pharmacist Presents at Medical Conference

By: Christine Taylor

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Heartbeats Fast and Slow Conference, a medical symposium recently held in Cleveland, Ohio, featured the research of University of Connecticut Associate Professor of Pharmacy Dr. C. Michael White. White is the first pharmacist to have presented in the history of the medical symposium. The Heartbeats Fast and Slow Conference is an annual event attended by physicians, cardiac surgeons, electrophysiologists, and cardiologists. Every year, participants exchange information on the newest therapies, device managements, and diagnostic approaches emerging in the field.

White's presentation addressed his research on post-cardiothoracic surgery atrial fibrillation. His research investigated methods that would minimize the likelihood of post-operative cardiac surgery patients experiencing heart rhythm disorders and strokes. Prior to his research on post-cardiothoracic surgery atrial fibrillation, White completed his fellowship at the University of Connecticut's School of Pharmacy, working with preceptor Moses S.S. Chow, Pharm.D, who he credits with stimulating his interest in the field. "He instilled a love of cardiovascular research in me," White explains. From there, White further specialized his research. During his clinical experiences, he became especially interested in the prevention of conditions that emerge as a result of medical treatment. Post-cardiothoracic surgery atrial fibrillation is one such condition.

In addition to the inherent risks of the surgery itself, cardiac surgery patients face a forty percent risk of developing a heart rhythm disorder, and a seven percent likelihood for the occurrence of stroke or ministroke. If these conditions develop, the patient can be exposed to a range of additional health complications, such as organ damage or decreased heart efficiency. These were not odds that White was willing to accept. "How can we be proactive and reduce these risks?" he wondered.

The Atrial Fibrillation Suppression Trials, or AFIST, were developed to answer that very question. Researchers carried out ten years of clinical and pharmacologic trials, along with observational methodology, in collaboration with University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy faculty member Craig Coleman.

White's study concluded that beta-blockers are an effective solution, reducing the likelihood of atrial fibrillation and the duration of hospital stay. With the addition of the anti-arrhythmic drug amiodarone, the efficiency of beta-blockers was further increased. The occurrence of post cardiothoracic surgery atrial fibrillation declined to twenty percent. Attempts to drop the incidence below this number, however, were unsuccessful.

White is not content to stop there. "We are currently looking at adding anti-inflammatory drugs to see if we can have our next major breakthrough, but won't have results for [three to five] years," he says. White's findings have already begun to impact heart surgery patients. The regimen developed by his research, AFIST amiodarone, has already begun to be implemented in hospitals and has shown promising results. "We have shown a reduction in atrial fibrillation, stroke and mini-stroke, and hospital length of stay in patients receiving therapy," reports White.

At the Heartbeats Fast and Slow conference, White reviewed all of his study results, and discussed how his findings should be applied to health care systems. "How to translate the clinical trial findings into practice guidelines inside a health system is the most important aspect," he says. ■

## Inaugural Pfizer Lecture Series Features Rades

By: Karen Logan



Dr. Thomas Rades

When Pfizer Global Research & Development established the Pfizer Distinguished Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutical Technology at the School of Pharmacy, the \$2 million gift

included support for an array of academic activities, including a seminar series, visiting professor exchanges and pre- and post-doctoral fellowships. In his role as the Pfizer Distinguished Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutical Technology, Dr. Michael J. Pikal is responsible for developing a seminar in pharmaceutical sciences and bringing renowned researchers to campus.

Accordingly, the inaugural Pfizer Lecture was given by Dr. Thomas Rades, professor and associate dean of research at the School of Pharmacy at the University of Otago in New Zealand. The first lecture, entitled "Development of Glass Solutions – A Structured Approach," was given on October 23, 2007 in the Pharmacy ~ Biology Building.

Dr. Rades gave a second lecture the following day, titled "Formulation Strategies for Poorly Water Soluble Drugs." Both presentations were hosted by Dr. Michael Pikal, professor and Pfizer Distinguished Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutical Technology at the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy.

Dr. Rades received his B.Sc. in pharmacy at the University of Hamburg and earned his Ph.D. at the Technical University of Carolo-Wilhelmina in Braunschweig, Germany. His research involves bioactives and delivery systems in pharmacy in the area of formulation and drug delivery, physical characterization of the solid and liquid crystallization state of matter, colloidal delivery systems for bioactives and the solid state of drugs and dosage forms. ■

# Dr. Megan Ehret Earns Board Certification

By: Karen Logan



Assistant Professor Meghan Ehret recently earned certification as a board-certified psychiatric pharmacist. This distinction is held by fewer than 400 pharmacists in the United States, Canada, and Australia.

As the number of psychiatric pharmacists continues to grow as more pharmacists attain this credential, it is important for providers of care in the mental health community to be aware of the certification process for psychiatric pharmacists so they may better understand the contributions that such pharmacists can make to patient care.

Pharmaceutical specialties were established by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties, an independent nongovernmental agency created by the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1976. The pursuit of specialty status for psychiatric pharmacists began in the 1980s and the first examination for board certification was offered in 1996.

The examination was developed and validated by the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties Council on Psychiatric Pharmacy in collaboration with a professional testing firm. It is based on three domains that assess the pharmacist's ability to collaborate with other health care professionals in pursuing optimal drug therapy for patients with psychiatric illnesses, generate or disseminate knowledge in psychiatric pharmacy, and collaborate with other professionals to recommend, implement, monitor, and modify systems for optimizing pharmacotherapy in patients with psychiatric illnesses. Board-certified psychiatric pharmacists must renew their certifications every 7 years.

This process assists the public and health care providers in identifying pharmacists who have the advanced level of knowledge, skills, and abilities required to provide quality health care in an increasingly complex environment. ■

# The Office of Pharmacy Professional Development

By: Christine Taylor

After passing the licensing exam and receiving their Pharm. D., pharmacists are still required to supplement and update their education by completing an additional fifteen hours per year of continuing education through an accredited professional education program. The Office of Continuing Education, has recently changed its name to the Office of Pharmacy Professional Development, along with the appointment of a new program director, Jill Fitzgerald, Pharm.D.

The program creates opportunities for pharmacists to complete their requirements through the development and identification of available and accredited programs. One such program is being offered in cooperation with the School of Pharmacy at the University of Pittsburgh, in the form of an online program on diabetes called "DM Educate". Pharmacists can enroll in the web-based course with an educational focus on therapy and management of diabetes for credit. Of the fifteen hours required for completion, five hours must be devoted to the attendance of a live presentation. While an online program like DM Educate cannot be used for these hours, there are other options provided by the Office of Pharmacy Professional Development.

The Henry A. Palmer CE Finale is held annually in the last week of December and is designed to help pharmacists meet their requirements before the end of the year. The program offers a variety of education presentations and can be used to fulfill one to eight hours of CE credit. This year, the program was held on December 28, 2007, at Rome Hall. In addition, the Arthur E. Schwarting Pharmacy Practice Symposium takes place annually in May, providing pharmacists with another opportunity to obtain accredited CE hours. The program is an all day event focusing on various issues of interest to practicing pharmacists. This year, the program will be held on May 21, 2008. "We anticipate a similar format as previous years," says Jill.

In addition to offering and developing programs available for credit hours, the Office of Pharmacy Professional Development has implemented new strategies of assessment in



Jill Fitzgerald, Pharm.D. is the new director of the Office of Pharmacy Professional Development

order to incorporate the ACPE's new standards into the existing programs. Available programs are now categorized as knowledge based, application based, or practice based, and the success of the activity is assessed based on criteria specific to each category. A knowledge based activity, for example, is evaluated by accessing the participants' ability to recall important facts learned during the program.

The Office of Pharmacy Professional Development aims to move away from knowledge based programs, however, and to instead increase the availability of application and practice based programs. Programs must also include an active component, such as a case study or group brainstorming session. As a means of assessment, pharmacists will be asked to fill out questionnaires and follow up surveys after their participation in CE programs. They will be asked to rate the success of the activity in regards to their satisfaction with the program and how much they have learned from their involvement. The Office of Pharmacy Professional Development also has developed a website, with a survey that pharmacists can take. "We encourage all pharmacists to go to [www.pharmacy.uconn.edu](http://www.pharmacy.uconn.edu), under the academics lab, continuing education, to complete the survey," says Fitzgerald. With a new name, a new program director, and new methods of assessment and goals, the Office of Pharmacy Professional Development will continue to encourage the process of lifelong professional education. ■

## President's Message ~ Jacqueline Murphy '78



When I am asked where graduated from pharmacy school and tell the person UConn, inevitably their next comments are about the basketball teams or the progress of the football team. While it is great that these sports are bringing name recognition to the university, without the caliber of education these teams would not exist.

So out of curiosity, I went to the internet and "googled" University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy. I got 131,000 hits. I tried a few other search engines and got a high of 65,013,496 at "gigablast", a low of 81,000 at "aol", and no listing at all on "wikipedia". Needless to say I did not visit all these sites. I also must qualify these searches that somehow the results do not always pertain to pharmacy. For example, on "dogpile" one result was School of Broadcasting. While we would like to think that we do a good job of broadcasting the benefits of our profession, I don't think that result related to my search goal.

There was, however, a recurring theme in the results that showed up on the first few pages of each search engine. All were articles about the School of Pharmacy, its excellent reputation, and the many honors and accolades that it has received. The Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Endowed Chair and the Henry A. Palmer endowed faculty position were frequent mentions. The focus on development of drugs and drug delivery systems and the best way to use them came up on all sites.

What impressed me were the achievements the school has made over recent years and the honors it has received. By now, many of you have visited the new school.

You all know about the fundraising efforts through the Foundation for not only the school, but also for the Henry A. Palmer Endowed Chair in Community Pharmacy Practice. The school also received a substantial gift from Pfizer to endow a chair in pharmaceutical technology in 2004. In 2006, another gift was received from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals to endow a chair in mechanistic toxicology.

Faculty, student, and alumni awards and contributions to the art of pharmacy also made up a big part of the hits. We are honored and blessed for the faculty we have at Storrs and the outlying campuses and clinical sites. Without this dedicated staff, the curriculum would not be the high standard it is. The students currently going through their six-year education have exceeded expectations in so many ways. National honor has been bestowed on many of them for the ways they have volunteered to expand the profession of pharmacy. Be it in working on the Walgreen's 4k run/walk, working on national committees and associations, or being good will ambassadors in their communities, these students are truly the future of the practice of pharmacy.

With this thought, I realize the importance of mentoring these future pharmacists. I encourage all of you to continue being active in the profession of pharmacy through our pharmacy alumni association or the many state associations. If you know someone who is not a member, encourage them to join, and get involved. Any association is only as good as its least active member. Sponsor a student, invite students to your place of employment, or offer to assist with some of the teaching programs on campus. In order to keep the school at its current high level of education and professionalism, it needs all the alumni to be active.

My next endeavor was going to be to "google" Dean McCarthy, but I ran out of time. ■

## From the Executive Secretary ~ Daniel C. L



As I write this, snow is on the ground here in Storrs and the thermometer is hovering around 35 degrees. I

am, however, looking forward to spring and the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Pharmacy Alumni Awards and Reunion Banquet. The event will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, CT on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 PM. Special letters have gone out to the reunion classes of 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1983, 1988, and 1998 from one of their classmates. All alumni, however, are invited and urged to attend. In addition to the recognition of the reunion classes, awards will be presented to three distinguished alumni and one honorary alumnus. Selected to receive Distinguished Alumni recognition are Dr. Roland Patry '70 representing academia, Barbara H. Deptula '78 representing industry, and Deborah J. Faucette '80 representing pharmacy practice. In addition, Paul G. Pierpaoli will be named an Honorary Alumnus. You will find a complete description of the careers of our awardees in this newsletter. There will also be dancing. Watch for the invitation in your mail and join us for this fun filled event.

This year, for the first time, we have developed a membership card for annual dues payers. Every one paying annual dues will receive a card. If you do not have a 2008 membership card, please use the dues form in this newsletter to send in your dues. If you are already a Life Member, we are working on mailing a Life Membership card to you. New Life Members will receive the life membership certificate and a membership card in the future.

The Pharmacy Alumni Association is always looking for alumni to serve on the Board of Directors. Each year, at

the annual banquet, seven alumni are elected to serve on the board. There are usually 2 to 3 vacancies as some members are elected to continuing terms. Responsibilities of board members include attending two board meetings each year and attending the annual banquet or another alumni event during the year. Meetings are usually held on a Thursday evening in April and October at the CPA office in Rocky Hill. If you are interested in being considered for election to the board, contact me at [daniel.leone@uconn.edu](mailto:daniel.leone@uconn.edu) or 860-486-0244. If I am not in the office, just leave a message.

The endowed scholarship fund that was established in 1996 with a donation of \$25,000 by the association and matched with a \$25,000 contribution by the State of Connecticut has provided scholarship funds for 4 or 5 students each year. The fund now has a balance of \$79,000 and will provide scholarship monies in perpetuity. The money to establish this endowment and monies for other contributions that the association makes to the school come from the dues money that you pay. Sadly, only about 10-15% of our alumni pay annual dues. We could do a lot more if more alumni paid annual dues. Of course, we appreciate the donations that all alumni make to the school through the Foundation and through the efforts of the school's associate director of development, Anne Margaret Gaffney. If, however, in addition to those donations, pharmacy alumni would pay the annual tax deductible \$25 dues to the association, it would help us support the school more. Please give it some consideration.

We would like to sponsor more events of interest to alumni. Let me know what we can arrange that would entice you to come back to campus and participate. Just e-mail me your thoughts at [daniel.leone@uconn.edu](mailto:daniel.leone@uconn.edu). I look forward to seeing you at the annual awards and reunion banquet. Have a great summer and don't forget to check the school's webpage for up to date information. ■

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our alumni and friends.

Gary E. Dugan '69  
February 2002

Thomas J. Bachman '57  
July 2005

Robert R. Oertel '42  
June 26, 2007

Sylvia Spalter Sable '48  
August 20, 2007

Jack H. Ziskin '66  
October 24, 2007

Pasquale A. (Pat) Ierardi '42  
November 2, 2007

Margaret L. (Peg) Adams '49 BS, '52 MS  
November 4, 2007

Edward Honiberg '40  
November 5, 2007

James V. Bomtempo '48  
December 5, 2007

Robert A. Lucchini '53  
December 15, 2007

Ronald R. Dumas '72  
December 19, 2007

Thomas Zubretsky '46  
January 10, 2008

Rana Abbas Ph.D. '75  
January 13, 2008

Michael Glaser '69  
March 1, 2008

## Dr. William Kelleher

Dr. William Kelleher, 78, passed away peacefully at Avery Heights, Hartford on Saturday, November 10, 2007. He was born in Hartford to Richard and Julia [Bogacz] Kelleher on July 18, 1929. He was a 1951 B.S. Pharm graduate of the School of Pharmacy, received a M.S. from UConn in 1953, and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin. He was a professor of pharmacognosy at the School of Pharmacy for 28 years, and also served as assistant dean for graduate education and research and interim dean at the school. He served as executive director of the UConn Pharmacy Alumni Association from 1982 until his retirement in 1988. He was instrumental in obtaining non-profit tax-exempt status for the association. In 1986, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the school. He was a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Biochemical Society, the AACP Council of Faculties and a past president of the American Society of Pharmacognosy. In the 1970s, he was a visiting professor at the University of Freiburg, Germany. Following his retirement from UConn, he was a consultant at Procter & Gamble/Vicks. He was a proud member of the US Marine Corps, having served as First Lt Artillery Specialist in the Korean War. A celebration of his life was held at the Potter Funeral Home on November 13, 2007.



Alfred D. Ford, R.Ph, 90, of Hartford died March 4, 2008. Born to George Washington Ford and Evergreen Threat Ford, he was raised in Columbus, GA and graduated from Spencer High School. He moved to Hartford after serving in World War II, later graduating from the UConn School of Pharmacy. Overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles, he co-founded Ford James Pharmacy in 1960, the 1st professional Black business in Hartford. He retired in 1980. An active member of Union Baptist Church, he served as a trustee for several years. He was a Charter Life member and first initiate of the Beta Sigma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He was also a life member of the UConn Pharmacy Alumni Association; Prince Hall Masons - Excelsior Lodge #3; and Carpe Diem Fraternity. He was affiliated with numerous other organizations and received countless awards for his service to the community.

# Alumni Association Awardees

## Distinguished and Honorary Alumni to be Honored

This year, the Pharmacy Alumni Association will again honor 3 alumni in academia, industry and pharmacy practice who have distinguished themselves in our profession. The awards will be presented at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Pharmacy Alumni Awards and Reunion Banquet which will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell CT on Saturday, April 12, 2008.

### **Dr. Roland A. Patry** **Academia**

Dr. Roland A. Patry received his B.S. Pharm from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy in 1970 and served an ASHP accredited pharmacy residency at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Houston, TX from 1975-1977. He earned a M.S. in hospital pharmacy from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy in 1977 and a Dr. P.H. in Health Sciences Administration from the University of Texas School Of Public Health in 1984. From 1977-1983, he was an assistant professor, Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Administration at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy and in 1983, was promoted to associate professor with tenure. From 1983 to 1988, he was an adjunct associate professor of community medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and from 1985-1988 was an adjunct associate professor of pharmacy practice at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy. He served as associate director of pharmacy services at Baylor University Medical Center from 1985-1995. In 1995, he became project manager for the Medication Administration Business Process Team at Baylor University Medical Center and co-director of pharmacy services at the center. From 1996 to 2004, he was executive associate dean at the Texas Tech University School of Pharmacy. Since 2004, he has been professor of pharmacy practice and chair, Clinical Practice and Management, Department of Pharmacy Practice.

Dr. Patry has been very active in the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists having served on the nominating committee in 1993 and 1994 and on the board of directors 2000-2003. He is also a member of the International Pharmacy Abstracts Advisory Board and the Becton Dickinson Advisory Board.

Dr. Patry also has served as secretary and president of the Texas Society of Hospital Pharmacists and on many of their committees.

Dr. Patry has received many awards in his career including being selected as one of 50 outstanding alumni [since its founding] from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy. Other awards include Outstanding Educator, University of Houston Mortar Board; Distinguished Service Award, Texas Pharmaceutical Association; Fellow, American Society of Hospital Pharmacists; Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, School of Pharmacy Professional Achievement Award; P-4 Graduating Class 2001 Teacher of the Year Award; and the TSHP Research and Education Foundation 2005 award for the best original research.

### **Barbara H. Deptula** **Industry**

Barbara H. Deptula obtained a B.S. Pharm from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy in 1978 and an MBA in Finance Specialization from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business in 1986. From 1986 to 1989, she was the manager, market development of the Genetics Institute in Cambridge, MA. In 1989 she joined American Cyanamid as manager, new product development, Lederle Laboratories where she focused on identifying and licensing new products. She then was director, international market planning and senior product manager at Schering Plough from 1990 to 1993 when she left to become business unit director at U.S. Bioscience. After rising to the position of vice president, licensing and business development, she joined the Coley Pharmaceutical Group in 2000 as vice president, commercial development and then became senior vice president, commercial and product development. When she left Coley in 2003, the start-

up company was viewed as a leader in toll-like receptor therapeutics and had 140 employees, two corporate partnerships and three molecules in development. She joined Sicom, Inc. in 2003 to lead the biotechnology division and was charged by the Board of Directors to seek strategic alternatives for the company. In 2004, TEVA Pharmaceuticals acquired Sicom. From 2004 until the present, Ms. Deptula has been the executive vice president, global business development for Shire Pharmaceuticals of Chesterbrook, PA. Shire Pharmaceuticals is a fast growing specialty pharmaceutical company and is the third largest pharmaceutical company in the United Kingdom. In her position, she is the member of a management committee responsible for product in-licensing and corporate mergers and acquisitions.

In 2007, Ms. Deptula was named one of Pennsylvania's 50 best women in business and one of the 100 most influential leaders in life sciences. In 2006 and 2007, she was a non-executive member of the Board of Directors and member of the Compensation and Nominating Committee of Combinatorx, Cambridge, MA and a board member of St. Christopher's Foundation for Children, a non-profit foundation affiliated with St. Christopher's Hospital of Philadelphia. She is an Executive Board member of the Greater Philadelphia Life Sciences Congress, Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

### **Deborah J. Faucette** **Pharmacy Practice**

Deborah J. Faucette received her B.S. Pharm from UConn in 1980. She is a licensed pharmacist in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Florida. She is currently the senior vice president, sales and marketing for LearnSomething Inc., a leading provider of e-learning solutions for the food, drug, and healthcare

industries. From 1981-2000, she served in various positions in human resources and operations with the Rite Aid Corporation, including director of pharmacy delivery systems, director of pharmacy and professional recruitment, director of human resources, director of pharmacy training and director of clinical services. In 2000, she joined the National Association of Chain Drug Stores as director of pharmacy operations responsible for developing pharmacy training and patient outreach programs. She then served as vice president, industry relations and pharmacy network development for Catalina Health Resource before joining LearnSomething, Inc. this year.

Ms. Faucette served as a University of Connecticut pharmacy preceptor from 1981-1983, an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh from 1989-1992, co-chair, National Diabetes Education Program, a joint venture of the National Institutes of Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention 2001-2005 and co-chair, Poison Prevention Week Council, Consumer Product Safety Commission 2002-2005. She is a strong supporter of the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy having served on the school's Advisory Board and as its vice chair and chair from 2002-2007. In 1999, Ms. Faucette endowed a scholarship in honor of her brother, James, who died of leukemia at the age of six. She says part of the reason she became a pharmacist was to work with medications that cure people.

### Paul G. Pierpaoli Honorary Alumnus

Paul G. Pierpaoli received a B.S. Pharm in 1960 from the University of Rhode Island School of Pharmacy and a M.S. in pharmacy from the Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan in 1962. From June 1961 to June 1962, he completed a Residency in Hospital Pharmacy at University Hospitals, University of Michigan. Upon completion of his residency, he became assistant to chief, Pharmacy Department, Clinical Center National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, MD and was a commissioned

officer in the U.S. Public Health Service. He then served as director of pharmacy services, Union Memorial Hospital, in Baltimore, MD, chief pharmacist and instructor in pharmacology, School of Nursing Truesdale Hospital, in Fall River, RI, co-investigator, U.S. Public Health Services Grant at Boston City Hospital, in Boston, MA and director of pharmacy services at Norwalk Hospital.

In August 1968, he became the director of pharmacy services at the University of Connecticut Health Center, John Dempsey Hospital and associate clinical professor at the UConn School of Pharmacy. He also served as assistant professor, Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, University of Connecticut School of Medicine from 1974-1977. As noted by Dr. Henry A. Palmer in his nomination, Mr. Pierpaoli was "among the first to conceptualize and implement clinical pharmacy services." Further, that "under his leadership, the pharmacy services at the Health Center became a role model for other hospitals and served as an ideal model for training our students in clinical practice." He was also responsible for the establishment of the UConn Drug Information Center facilitating delivery of patient specific drug information to health professionals.

In January 1977, he became director of pharmacy services at the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals, in Richmond, VA

and associate professor of pharmacy at the MCV/Virginia Commonwealth University, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutics. From 1984 to 1998, he was director of pharmacy and professor of pharmacology, Rush-Presbyterian - St. Luke's Medical Center, in Chicago. While serving in this position, he also was appointed assistant professor, Department of Health Systems Management, College of Health Sciences, Rush University, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice, University of Illinois College of Pharmacy and adjunct clinical professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy. In 1998, he became senior vice president, pharmacy practice at McKesson Medication Management, leaving that position in 2006 to become a healthcare consultant.

Mr. Pierpaoli has held several positions with the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists including a member of the Board of Directors, president 1984-1985, chairman, Board of Directors, ASHP Research and Education Foundation, and member, Commission on Goals. He has been an official delegate to the U.S. Pharmacopeia Convention, a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association Remington Medal Screening Committee, and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Pharmaceutical Institute. In 2007, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus by the University of Rhode Island School of Pharmacy. ■

## What's New With You?

We want to hear from you! Please use this form to tell us about address changes, personal and professional honors, or everyday events that we can use for the Alumni Update column. Mail To: University of Connecticut, School of Pharmacy Alumni Association, 69 North Eagleville Road, Unit 3092 ~ Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3092, or e-mail us at: daniel.leone@uconn.edu

Dr.     Mr.     Mrs.     Ms.     Other    \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Maiden/Former Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer/Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 News: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Lawrence Muccino '50** and his wife recently celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**William Brown '65** has sold Brown's Pharmacy in Brandon, VT to Rite Aid. The pharmacy, which was established by his father in 1938, was the last family owned pharmacy in Brandon.

**Robert Krueger '71**, professor of pharmacognosy at Ferris State University, spent his recent sabbatical with the Council for Responsible Nutrition in Washington, DC. Dr. Krueger earned his Ph.D. in pharmacy, with an emphasis in pharmacognosy, at the University of Iowa and his B.S. in pharmacy at UConn.

**Burt Finkelstein '72** has joined VisualMED as Senior Pharmacist. He came to VisualMED from Cardinal Health where he was Manager of Pharmacy Automation and Information Systems. After receiving his B.S. Pharm degree from UConn, he earned a Pharm.D. degree from Duquesne University in 1976. In 1979, he began a 20-year career with the Johns Hopkins Hospitals before joining Cardinal Health.

**Steven Gordziel '76**, Ph.D. has been named Practice Head of Pharmaceutical Development for PharmaDirections Inc., a drug development management firm. Prior to joining PharmaDirections, he was Vice President, Product Development at Hollis-Eden Pharmaceuticals.

**Tracie Ezzio '77** was featured in an article in the Pepperell, MA newspaper about the opening of her Pepperell Family Pharmacy. The article stressed the personal service given at the pharmacy. Her daughter, a student at MCP Worcester, works part time with her.

**John Gadea '79** received the 2007 Professional Pharmacy Performance Award at the CPA awards banquet in October.

**Roger Pinsonneault '82** was the 2007 recipient of the Benjamin D. Ward Distinguished Member Award which recognizes outstanding achievement, consistent dedication and exemplary leadership in regard to NCPDP (National Council for Prescription Drug Programs) and the healthcare industry.

**Mary Brumard '83** was named recipient of the Wyeth Bowl of Hygeia for Arizona.

**Charles Obeid '84** and his Sheehan's Pharmacy were featured in an article in the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader about the ability of independent pharmacies to compete in today's marketplace. The pharmacy which was started by his father in 1968 is a family operation that employees 19 people, 5 of whom are pharmacists.

**Mukhtar Shihabeddin '84** Ph.D. has been appointed as Director General of ACDIMA (Arab Company for Drug Industry and Medical Appliances), a Pan-Arab shareholding company established by a resolution from the Arab Economic Council which is located in Amman, Jordan. He also has been listed in Marquis Who's Who in Science and Engineering.

**Angelo DeFazio '85** was named recipient of the 2007 Wyeth Bowl of Hygeia for Connecticut.

**Mary Sevon '85, MBA '87** writes that after a diverse career in pharmacy, including running her own pharmacy benefit consulting business which she sold to Aon Consulting, she semi-retired from pharmacy. She then went back to school for a Masters in Education and now teaches high school physics while working part-time in a local independent pharmacy.

**Jill Fitzgerald '86** has joined the UConn School of Pharmacy as the director of professional development and assistant clinical professor. She develops pharmacy continuing education programs, provides career development for students, and teaches in the Pharm.D. program.

**Marta Brooks '87** has been named president of ProEd Communications Inc., a full-service medical education/communications company which is part of the Omnicom network.

**Erica Peitler '88** has been named a Vistage Chair in Morristown, NJ. She will be responsible for building and facilitating groups of CEOs who meet monthly to discuss business issues. She is the president of her own leadership coaching/consulting firm. She previously was an executive vice-president and member of the Global Management Team for Bayer Healthcare and is a member of the School of Pharmacy Advisory Board.

**Kelly P. (Kirby) Shaw '90** and her husband, Joseph, are the proud parents of a daughter, Paige Sophia Shaw, born May 2, 2007. She weighed 6 lbs 11 ozs. and was 19 ¼ inches. They reside in Abington, MA.

**Christian J. DeGeorge '94** and Melissa Anne Peloquin were married on November 3, 2007 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Palm Beach Gardens.

**Denise L. Romero '97** received the 2007 Elan Biopharmaceuticals Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award at the CPA awards banquet in October 2007.

**Stefanie Pratola Ferreri '97** and her husband Eric announce the birth of twins Ryan John and Annabelle Grace on September 13, 2007 in Durham, NC. Stefanie is a clinical assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Pharmacy. She was also recently elected chair-elect of the APhA's Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management Clinical/Pharmacotherapeutic Practice Section.

**Kim Hopkins '98** received the Paragon Award for her work at CVS. The award is given to the best pharmacists throughout the company based on customer service and commitment to company and community. She was also promoted to supervisor of 17 stores in Tolland County.

**Robert J. Shapiro '02** is in his 6<sup>th</sup> year with the U.S. Air Force and has been stationed in Tampa, FL and Spangdahlem, Germany. He is now at Travis AFB in California, is married to an active duty nurse, Alma and is currently doing a pharmacy practice residency at Travis AFB.

**Jennifer Judd '04** and her husband, Robert, are proud parents of a baby boy, Derek Louis Judd who was born on November 6, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 11 ozs. and 20 ½ inches. Jennifer also serves on the Pharmacy Alumni Association Board of Directors.

**Annik S. Chamberlain '04** was named the 2007 Pharmacists Mutual Distinguished Young Pharmacist at the CPA awards banquet.

Installed as officers of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association at the annual banquet in October were **President Roy Katz '07 Hon**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President **Meghan Wilkosz '03**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President **Emmett Sullivan '93** and Treasurer **Lydia Borysiuk '05 Hon**.



**Ben Enos '05** and **Amy Kelder '07** were wed on November 10, 2007.

## Life Members

Welcome to the following individuals who became Life Members in 2007. Life membership is available to any School of Pharmacy alumnus/a upon payment of the \$250 fee.

Barry R. Cerreto  
Jeanne C. Fletcher  
Normand E. Girard  
Donald Hemphill  
Margaret Morrison  
Karen B. Rubinfeld  
Meghan Wilkosz

Robert L. Dana  
Laura Giannini  
Elaine M. Greer  
Jason Virelli

## Graduate Student Selected as Gold Prize Winner

By: Christine Taylor

Upkar Bhardwaj, a graduate student in pharmaceuticals, was recently selected as winner of the 2007 Diabetes Technology Peterson Student Research Gold Prize, awarded by the Diabetes Technology Society. The planning committee chose Upkar's abstract from over 190 submitted. During his research, Upkar worked as part of a multidisciplinary research team alongside Dr. Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos from the Institute of Material Sciences, Dr. Faquir Jain from the School of Engineering, Dr. Radhakrishna Sura from the Pathobiology Department, and Dr. Diane Burgess from the School of Pharmacy. Upkar credits Dr. Burgess, his major advisor, with encouraging his involvement in the research project. "Her constant support, input and ideas are indispensable," explains Upkar.

In order to properly manage their disease, individuals with diabetes must test their blood glucose levels several times a day. Upkar's research aimed to develop a fully implantable wireless sensor that would allow diabetes patients to comfortably monitor their blood glucose without painful finger pricking. The sensor, however, faced a major hindrance; once implanted, the body's natural defense mechanisms would recognize it as a foreign object and respond with inflammation and other undesirable immune reactions that damage and destroy the sensor. Upkar and his research team sought to find a solution to this problem by designing an implant coating that would release drugs in a controlled and localized fashion, reducing the damage done by the implant. While the research is still in progress and likely to last for a few more years, substantial progress has already been made. "Our latest results have proved that the coatings we have developed can be used to provide protection against tissue reaction for a period of up to three months," Upkar reports.

Upkar was acknowledged on October 25, 2007 at the annual Diabetes Technology Meeting, held in San Francisco, California. The meeting,

taking place over the course of three days, was attended by over 300 scientists and clinicians from various countries. Through a tightly-packed agenda of lectures, workshops, presentations, and discussions, leading scientists and clinicians in the field shared their research and ideas. Upkar enjoyed being able to meet with experts in the field and attended as many lectures as he could during his three-day stay in San Francisco.

For achieving the prestigious gold prize, Upkar also received one thousand dollars cash, along with paid travel, lodging and registration to attend the meeting. He also received a free one-year subscription to the "Journal of Diabetes Science and Technology". However, Upkar feels that the best part of his research experience is yet to come. "The most rewarding part will be when we see a first generation sensor fully functional in patients," he says. ■

## Student New Briefs

Continued from Page 4

undergo solvent mediated conversion." USP fellows are graduate students enrolled in chemistry, pharmacy and other health care and scientific programs. Students at colleges and universities around the world are eligible to apply for the program. Kristyn will present a poster of her work at USP's 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting in Kansas City, MO.

Two School of Pharmacy graduate students, **Igor Gurevich** and **Shumet A. Hailu** were named Pre-Doctoral Fellowships in Pharmaceutical Sciences by the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education. AFPE Pre-Doctoral Fellowships provide recognition and support to outstanding pharmaceutical science Ph.D. candidates as they complete the advanced coursework, research, and dissertation phase of their program in preparation for careers in industry research or academic teaching. ■

## First Year Pharmacy Students Get Their First Dose of Professionalism

By: Sarah Kearns

On Friday November 9, 2007, the PI students of the class of 2011 participated in a professionalism ceremony in the Great Hall of the Alumni House on the Storrs campus. Aside from their PI orientation at the beginning of the semester, this was the first activity aimed specifically at the PI class. In addition to the PIs, many parents and faculty, including Dean McCarthy and Associate Dean Hubbard, were in attendance to honor the students.

The afternoon began with Associate Dean Dr. Andrea Hubbard taking the podium and complimenting the PI class saying that this group of PI students had the highest entering GPA. Dr. Hubbard discussed the words associated with professionalism and then segued into introducing Dean Robert McCarthy, who started the Professionalism Coordinating Committee.

"Welcome to the family," was Dean McCarthy's opening statement. He continued by saying that "once you become part of the pharmacy program, it is always there. It's kind of like the aunt and uncle that you wish you could get rid of." The dean continued to speak about the UConn Pharmacy program and how the students will be able to get a job in the years to come, due in part to the shortage of pharmacists. Along with emphasizing the importance of their current job path, he also emphasized what the UConn School of Pharmacy expects out of them. "While you are pharmacy students here at the university, it is expected that you work hard, be honest, and be caring. By remembering and fulfilling these three expectations, you will be able to make the transition from being a student, to that of a professional." With that being said, Dr. Hubbard took the stage again and introduced one of the three guest speakers, Richard Rothman, of Wal-Mart.

Rothman leads the campus relation branch of the franchise. He talked to the PI students about his time working in the



P4 student, Jennifer Colby, was one of the guest speakers at the PI Professionalism Ceremony held in November 2007.

field at the pharmacy, and the days when his mother would stalk him while he was working. "I remember one day, while I was working behind the counter, looking up in Aisle 5 and seeing someone vaguely familiar. Sure enough, taking a better look at this person, it was my mother." He continued on, saying to the students that they must remember three attributes when being a pharmacist. "Remember to always have respect for the individual -- put someone else's needs ahead of yours. Remember to strive for excellence and continue to educate, challenge and move yourself forward. Finally, remember to give service to the patient and the community -- give back. These are the basic beliefs of Sam Walton, the founder of Wal-Mart, so remember them."

The next guest speaker to address the PI students was Jen Colby, who is currently a P4 student. Colby spoke about being a member of the Professionalism Coordinating Committee since her PI year. She discussed how important it is to be professional and to display professionalism in and out of the workplace because you "never know who is going to be on the other end of the phone line..."

The keynote speaker at the event was Adeniyi (Niyi) Fisayo, Pharm.D. and UCHC medical student, who shared his own personal experiences, both in the pharmacy and medical worlds. Niyi grew up in Nigeria and came to the U.S. to attend college at the age of 16. He first tried his luck with math but later fell in love with pharmacy and the interaction he had with the patients was what got him hooked. Although he loved pharmacy, one can only go so far when working with the patient, so in order to guarantee direct access to the patients decided to become a medical student.

In Niyi's speech, he provided the students helpful hints to remember about working as a pharmacist and a medical student. "Focus on the patient and try to think of them as your grandparent, ask why, give your opinions, do not be afraid to offer to call back if you need to look up information or you are pressed for time, offer to take questions and finally there might be more tips than just what you can offer. Remember to uphold a sense of professionalism, people are relying on you, they need your help and they need you to be honest."

At the conclusion of Niyi's presentation, Dr. Hubbard took her place on the podium and asked the PI students to rise and face the audience. They raised their right hands and recited an Oath of a Student Pharmacist to their parents, friends, professors and advisors. The oath was created by the group, especially for this ceremony. At the conclusion of their oath, the students were welcomed to the School of Pharmacy once again.

The ceremony concluded with a reception in the Husky Museum where light snacks and drinks were offered. Congratulations to the PI students of 2011. Welcome to the family! ■

## School of Pharmacy Student to Volunteer in Israel

By: Sarah Kearns



Carlie Hershgordon is a first year student at the School of Pharmacy and she has her mind set on one thing and one thing only – heading to Israel this summer to participate in a six-week EMT volunteer program. It might come as a surprise that a PI student would want to do field work so early on in the program, but Carlie has made up her mind. She first traveled to Israel to participate in a trip called Birth Right, which is a nine week overnight program for 18-26 year olds. On this particular

trip, she was a counselor and met someone who had participated in the EMT program. Since the moment she first heard about the Magen David Adom Ambulance Volunteer Program, she has had her heart set on going there, no matter what.

The program consists of 40-hour work week, with the first week being an intensive training course where she will learn the medical Hebrew terminology, as well as become certified in first response. Her team will consist of an Israelite medical driver and three other volunteers. Carlie will be dealing with patient care cases ranging from elderly patients with trouble breathing, to the potentiality of delivering a baby.

When asked why she was volunteering her time in this program, Carlie said with a smile, “It is a great opportunity that not only furthers my education in the health care field, but also gives me an objective view of our world. I will have the ability to gain good medical exposure as well as get hands on

experience with in-the-moment medical emergencies.” She then continued to explain why this trip is so important to her. “One of my close friends died in August of 2006 while fighting in the Lebanon War, and since his death, his close friends and family have been going over to help and volunteer as medics.”

Although Carlie is so passionate about going to Israel to help with this program, her funding for the trip is less than what it should be. “I am doing everything that I can to save up my money to go on this trip,” says Carlie. “I am paying the fees out of my own pocket and applying for as many scholarships and working a job this semester and during winter break, to reach my goal.”

With the passion and determination that Carlie has displayed, the Magen David Adom Ambulance Volunteer Program is lucky to have her! We wish her success in obtaining her goals and know that she will one day make a difference in the medical world! If you would like to help fund Carlie’s participation in the program, please contact Anne-Margaret Gaffney, associate director of development at 860-486-9342. ■

## A Colorful Semester

By: Sarah Kearns

Pharmacy students are well aware of what the professors and the deans expect from them when they enroll in the pharmacy program. They know they will have to spend long hours in labs and classrooms to one day reach their goal of becoming a pharmacist. Despite the grueling hours and high demands of the program, P2 student Michelle Waligora is able to balance life as a pharmacy student with that of a member of the UConn Marching Colorguard.

Michelle’s passion for colorguard and pharmacy began in her high school years while attending Atholton High School in Columbia, MD. Michelle said that her love for pharmacy really began to grow and develop during her junior year in high school while taking chemistry. Her teacher had talked about going back to pharmacy school and getting his Pharm.D.

This piqued her interest in the health care field and she began her journey toward becoming a pharmacist.

Michelle joined the colorguard during her freshmen year of high school. She was an active member all four years, twirling flags and even rifles during football games, as well as attending many competitions. In her junior and senior years she was the feature dancer and was named captain her senior year. Michelle’s high school also won Best Colorguard at the Final Competition her senior year.

As her love for colorguard grew, so did her love for pharmacy. As a senior, Michelle participated in a mentorship that allowed her to work for a family owned pharmacy near her school. It is here that her passion for pharmacy grew. When she combined her love for pharmacy with her passion for chemistry, Michelle knew that the pharmacy and health care profession was where she wanted to be.

Now, a P2 in her fourth year at UConn, Michelle’s love for colorguard and pharmacy have come to fruition. She is able to handle the demanding hours of studying and classwork for pharmacy as well as 2-hour practices on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for the colorguard. Michelle says that despite the fact that football season is over; she has made many memories from her years in band. Michelle is also aware that, with these memories, there will be many more balancing acts ahead, not only on the field but in the classroom as well. ■



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